

## INCREASE OF MIDSHIPMEN AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.

JANUARY 28, 1916.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of  
the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PADGETT, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the  
following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9224.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred H. R. 9224, a bill providing for an increase in the number of midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, having had the same under consideration, report the bill favorably with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The bill has the approval of the Secretary of the Navy.

The estimated number of line officers required in time of peace by July 1, 1919, to keep in full commission and in reserve the ships of the Navy now built, building, and authorized, and to care for shore stations.....		2, 538
Line officers available Jan. 1, 1916.....		1, 978
Additional required by July 1, 1919 (peace complements).....		560
Estimated number required to commission all of above (war complements)....		3, 528
Line officers available Jan. 1, 1916.....		1, 978
Additional required by July 1, 1919 (war complements).....		1, 550
Required by July 1, 1921, for ships under new building program.....		873
Total required by July 1, 1921 (peace complements).....		3, 411
Total required by July 1, 1921 (war complements).....		4, 401
Total now in service.....		1, 978
Additional required by July 1, 1921 (peace complements).....		1, 433
Additional required by July 1, 1921 (war complements).....		2, 423
Estimated increase by graduates of the Naval Academy and commissioning warrant officers to July 1, 1919.....		528
Same to July 1, 1921.....		792

From the above it will be seen that the present sources of supply of officers will result in shortages as follows:

By July 1, 1919 (peace complements).....	32
By July 1, 1919 (war complements).....	1,022
By July 1, 1921 (peace complements).....	461
By July 1, 1921 (war complements).....	1,451

It therefore appears that in order to place in full commission ships already built and authorized there must be obtained by July 1, 1919, 1,022 line officers, and if the new building program is adopted, 1,451 more line officers than allowed by existing law will be needed by July 1, 1921.

Under existing law the sources of supply for line officers are from the graduates of the Naval Academy and promotion from the enlisted force. Under existing law promotions from enlisted men to the amount of 12 annually are allowed, but up to the present time the Navy Department has not been successful in obtaining that many annually from the enlisted men. The bill under consideration does not change existing law in this respect.

Under existing law the Secretary of the Navy is allowed 15 appointments to the Naval Academy from enlisted men and up to the present time the Navy Department has been unable to obtain its full quota from this source. The bill under consideration does not change existing law in this respect.

As to appointments to the Naval Academy, until June 30, 1919, the existing law allows two midshipmen for each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress, one for Porto Rico, two for the District of Columbia, and 10 appointed each year at large and 15 appointed annually from the enlisted men of the Navy; but after June 30, 1919, each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress will have but one appointment to the Naval Academy. Under existing law 1,169 midshipmen may be maintained at the Naval Academy, but owing to failures, physical and mental, an average of about 900 begin the course each year and about 850 maintained throughout the year, or about 25 per cent less than the authorized number. If this bill should become a law, each Senator and Member of the House of Representatives, and Delegate would have three appointments in all, and the total authorized number would be 1,704 midshipmen. Judging from past experience, the number maintained at the Naval Academy would be approximately 1,200 which is its full capacity.

The present bill does not increase the number of midshipmen for Porto Rico, for the District of Columbia or the at-large appointments for the President or the number authorized annually from the enlisted force of the Navy.

If the bill under consideration should become a law shortly, all Senators and Representatives and Delegates would then have an opportunity to nominate for the entrance examinations to the Naval Academy on April 18 next, or at an examination held at a later date should the Secretary of the Navy order such examination, but all those who would prefer to do so could hold the vacancies over for next year. The passage of the law at the present time would enable the department to have a large class appointed to enter at the next academic year, and yet there would not be too many in the class to



be accommodated, and enough vacancies would go over to next year to provide for a class sufficiently large for 1917.

Nine hundred and seventy-six midshipmen can be quartered in Bancroft Hall at the Naval Academy under the present method of assigning quarters: that is, two midshipmen to a room or suite of rooms. The rooms vary in size, some of them being quite large and commodious, and as a general rule a suite of rooms to which is assigned at present two midshipmen consists of a study room, common to the two, and two bedrooms. The Secretary of the Navy reports that it is considered entirely practicable to quarter 1,200 midshipmen in Bancroft Hall, and while this might entail a certain amount of crowding, and might occasion slight inconvenience to individuals at times, it is not considered that the accommodations will be overcrowded to such an extent as to menace the health of the midshipmen or to materially affect the discipline of the institution.

The committee therefore recommends that the bill do pass.



